(b) if so, the details of steps taken by Government to grab the opportunity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is motivating and encouraging our companies target Chile seriously for business and investment and use Chile as a springboard to other Latin American countries. The Government is working in this regard with the chambers of commerce and industry and export promotion councils under the Focus-LAC (Latin America and Caribbean) Programme.

SAARC Summit

†2541. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 13th SAARC Summit is going to be held soon;

(b) if so, the details of issues likely to be taken up by India in this conference; and

(c) the details of the agreements Government expect to be signed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) In line with India's commitment to the SAARC process, Government of India have stressed our keeness to hold the 13th SAARC Summit in Dhaka at an early date. Pakistan, as Chair of SAARC, is required to initiate consultations with the host Government (Bangladesh) and other member countries for identifying fresh dates for the 13th SAARC Summit, which are mutually convenient to all SAARC members.

(b) India wishes to re-orient SAARC programmes towards specific project activities in key areas of economic and social development and regional economic integration, which can bring tangible benefits to the people of the region. India seeks to finalize modalities for the setting up of SAARC Poverty Alleviation Fund, to which it has offered US$ 100 million as contribution, for financing poverty alleviation projects in SAARC countries outsides India. India is also keen to promote proposals made at the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

25th session of SAARC Council of Ministers Meeting in Islamabad in July, 2004 for a High Economic Council to deliberate on economic, trade, investment, fiscal and monetary issues associated with regional economic integration, an Infrastructure Fund to finance large projects to improve cross-border communications and infrastructure, including ports and energy. India has also proposed a SAARC Centre for Disaster Management to be set up within the National Institute of Disaster Management, New Delhi, which can serve as a SAARC Regional Training Centre and provide early warning and response for disaster prevention and mitigation.

(c) Agreements on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters, and Avoidance of Double Taxation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters are expected to be signed at the 13th Summit.

Demarcation of Indo-Bangla Border

2542. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that portions of Indo-Bangla border is yet to be demarcated;

(b) whether it would affect the proposed exchange of enclaves between India and Bangladesh;

(c) what progress has been made, so far, in this regard;

(d) what remains the major obstacle; and

(e) whether Government have set any time-frame for the exchange of enclaves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. 6.1 Kms of the international border between India and Bangladesh is yet to be demarcated.

(b) No Sir, this would not affect the proposed exchange of enclaves between India and Bangladesh, though both are prerequisites for ratification of the 1974 Land Boundary Agreement between the two countries.

(c) and (d) The Governments of India and Bangladesh have set up two Joint Boundary Working Groups to resolve all pending issues relating to the implementation of the Land Boundary Agreement of 1974 including